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# Press Release

## Hialeah Police Cadet Bryan Michelena 2009 Florida Association of Police Explorers **EXPLORER OF THE YEAR**

### Hialeah, Florida –

Since becoming a Police Cadet in May of 2005, Bryan Michelena has helped coordinate events ranging from fundraising to disaster relief. He has assisted the Red Cross distribute food and water, taught small children the dangers of strangers, helped cub scouts obtain merit badges and hugged special people as they achieve their goal at a Special Olympics' event. His service and dedication has allowed him to win awards and recognitions, move up the ranks, and achieve the position of Commander. To date he has recorded over 1,973 hours of community service through the Cadet program and he continues to volunteer with other organizations outside Exploring. Bryan has never missed an event and can be counted on at the drop of a hat.

Bryan has served as Post Delegate to the Florida Association of Police Explorers for three years. He has learned the importance of compromise as well as the reasons behind discourse and debate. He has participated in important votes that have effected locations for competitions and conferences, costs, special events and other topics that could affect all explorers in the State of Florida.

Last year, Bryan was appointed to the Children's Trust Youth Advisory Committee; a program which sole purpose is to provide assistance to children in our community. His position on this board is a direct result of his involvement with Exploring. As a board member, he participates in discussing projects and programs that provide child care, leadership, assistance, and mentoring to young children and teenagers. Though Exploring has taught him the importance of community involvement and participation, Bryan has placed this knowledge into action on overdrive.

Bryan maintained a 3.0 grade point average while attending high school and was his school's 2009 nominee for the Silver Knight Award in Social Science. The Silver Knight Awards go to top students who demonstrate extraordinary records of service to their school and their community. According to the Silver Knight Foundation, "They exemplify an unselfish and continuous use of talents in helping others."

As a cadet, Bryan has dedicated himself to service towards both our Post and the community. Bryan is a “can do Cadet” and will accomplish any feat presented to him. He will load boxes, transport equipment, help build anything, and he has even taught his advisor to back-up a trailer. Rather unassuming, Bryan leads by example and is always willing to lend a helping hand to the other cadets. Since obtaining his driver’s license, Bryan has served as chauffer and taxi to a great number of cadets who otherwise would not be able to participate in events.

In June of 2008, Bryan was recognized by the Chief of Police for his assistance while on ride-along assignment. On June 28, 2008 units were dispatched reference a 58 year old female not breathing. Bryan, who was on ride-along with Officer David Alvarez, was the first unit to arrive at the scene followed shortly by the area Sergeant. Upon arrival, the female was seen lying on her back in a rear bedroom, she was not breathing and had no pulse. While the officers performed CPR, Cadet Michelena took charge of the on-lookers, established and maintained a clear area by removing them from the apartment, thus giving the officers space to work, and also provided clear access for fire rescue. Last December, Bryan was also recognized by the Police Officers Assistance Trust for his service during their annual Holiday Gift Drive for children of fallen officers.

This July, Bryan will be representing our post at the 2009 National Law Enforcement Exploring Leadership Academy. He will be attending the U.S. Secret Service Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C. as one of only fifty explorers selected nationwide; an honor for both he and our post.

“Through exploring I have learned that a community needs its citizens to take ownership and share in the responsibilities of everyday life. Law Enforcement Exploring has provided me with many opportunities, but most of all it has given me a passion for public service and civic involvement. I hope to one day serve as a law enforcement officer and continue the tradition of serving both my community and exploring by becoming a mentor and perhaps an advisor,” Bryan said.

Bryan Michelena was a shy 14 year old when he first joined the Explorer program. Watching him grow into a confident, dedicated and caring adult has been a pleasure and honor for his colleagues, mentors and advisors. His post bids farewell to certain Cadets upon high school graduation, and as to say good-bye to Bryan, the Advisors of Post 589, can steadfastly state that they have been the ones to benefit. Bryan Michelena exemplifies what law enforcement exploring is all about.

PHOTO

10001 - Bryan Michelena